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For Immediate Release...

Corrections News

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Missouri Department of Corrections institutions donate more than 50 tons of produce to local food pantries as part of Restorative Justice Garden Program

Offenders within the Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC) have produced more than 50 tons of produce through the Restorative Justice Garden Program, and distributed the food to local food pantries throughout the state.

For many of the food pantries, the offender-grown produce is the only fresh produce that is offered to people in need. Some examples of produce grown at the institutions include tomatoes, bell peppers, lettuce, broccoli, zucchini, yellow squash, butternut squash, cucumbers, carrots, green beans, cantaloupe, watermelon, okra, onions, jalapeno peppers, potatoes, and pumpkins.

“The efforts of our staff and our offenders are helping the less fortunate throughout the state,” said **DOC Director George A. Lombardi**. “This year’s harvest is significantly higher than last year’s and is a testament to their hard work and dedication. Restorative Justice holds the offender accountable and provides a means for them to help repay their debt to society.”

Western Missouri Correctional Center (WMCC) in Cameron is the DOC’s top producer thus far with more than 23,008 pounds of produce. The Farmington Correctional Center (FCC) has donated nearly 18,478 pounds while the Jefferson City Correctional Center has raised nearly 16,436 pounds of produce.

Offenders typically start cultivating the food plots in April, while the harvesting usually begins in July and ends in late fall. All of the seeds and plants for the gardens are donated to the DOC facilities; in return, all of the produce grown is then donated to local food pantries. No produce is kept by the institutions.

In 2010 the DOC donated 29 tons of produce grown through the Restorative Justice Garden Program to food pantries. Restorative Justice is an ancient philosophy that addresses criminal behavior with the fundamental belief that when a crime is committed, a debt is incurred.

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Restorative Justice Garden Produce Donations

(as of September 30, 2011)

Institution	Weekly Total of Pounds Donated (Sept. 26-30, 2011)	Total Number of Pounds Donated for 2011
* Algoa Correctional Center	34 lbs	858 lbs
* Boonville Correctional Center	99 lbs	1032.35 lbs
Chillicothe Correctional Center	472.15 lbs	4068.81 lbs
Cremer Therapeutic Community Center	6.8 lbs	105.4 lbs
* Crossroads Correctional Center		215 lbs
Eastern Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center	2.1 lbs	100.25 lbs
Farmington Correctional Center	2272 lbs	18,478 lbs
* Fulton Reception & Diagnostic Center		1024.4 lbs
Jefferson City Correctional Center	0	16436 lbs
Missouri Eastern Correctional Center		75.25 lbs
Moberly Correctional Center	220 lbs	4828 lbs plus 6984 tomato plants
Northeast Correctional Center	618 lbs	6543.5 lbs
Ozark Correctional Center	106 lbs	1467 lbs
* Potosi Correctional Center		1644 lbs
South Central Correctional Center	10.2 lbs	568.68 lbs
Southeast Correctional Center	22 lbs	8498 lbs
Western Missouri Correctional Center	4367 lbs	23,008 lbs
Western Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center	92 lbs	6847 lbs
Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center	131 lbs	1711.1 lbs
* St. Joseph Community Supervision Center		371 lbs
* Farmington Community Supervision Center		2481.35 lbs
* Kennett Community Supervision Center		100 lbs
Grand Total		100,461.09 lbs plus 6984 tomato plants

* Garden is done for the year.